The Strange Tales of Oscar Zahn

HEY GUYS! I HAD SUCH A BLAST AT BOSTON COMIC CON LAST WEEK. THANKS TO EVERYONE THAT CAME BY THE TABLE TO SAY HI AND BIG SHOUT OUT TO LINE WEBTOONS FOR BRINGING ME OUT THERE!

WOW, LOTS OF GREAT QUESTIONS FROM LAST WEEK. I TRIED TO ANSWER AS MANY AS I COULD BUT I LEFT OUT A FEW THAT WERE SIMILAR TO OTHER QUETSIONS. SORRY IF YOU DONT' SEE YOUR QUESTION BUT I STILL APPRECIATE YOU WRITING IN!

LET'S JUST GET STRAIGHT TO IT SHALL WE?

"JUST ONE QUESTION. CAN YOU DISCLOSE JUST A LITTLE BIT ABOUT AGNES? SHE SEEMS TO BE SUCH AN INTERESTING CHARACTER!ALSO.. ABSOLUTELY LOVING THE COMIC! LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT UPDATES... CHEERS!"

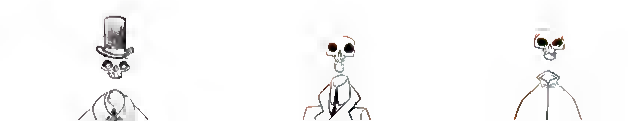
SOMETHING ABOUT AGNES EH? WELL, SHE IS ESSENTIALLY OSCAR'S COUNTERPART. OSCAR IS (PROBABLY) A MAN WITH BOTH FEET IN THE SUPERNATURAL WORLD. AGNES IS HIS TETHER TO THE REAL WORLD. SHE UNDERSTANDS THE WORLD HE LIVES IN BUT HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH HER KEEPS HIM (SOMEWHAT) AMONGST THE LIVING SO HE DOESN'T DRIFT OFF TO THE SPIRIT WORLD.

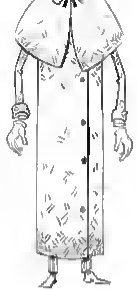
"DO YOU HAVE AN EMAIL FOR FAN ART OR SOMETHING? IF YOU DID I LOVE TO SEND YOU SOME"

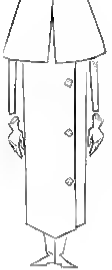
YES I LOVE GETTING FAN ART! YOU CAN SEND THEM TO ME AT TRIVUONG76@GMAIL.COM.

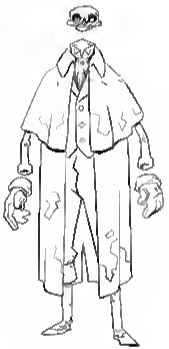
"MAY WE SEE SOME OF YOUR CONCEPT ART?"

YOU SURE CAN!









"HI, I'D LIKE TO ASK, WHERE DID THE IDEA FOR THIS CAME FROM? UNDEAD PARANORMAL INVESTIGATOR. WAS IT THE BASE OF YOUR STORY OR DID IT START WITH SOMETHING ELSE? IF SO THEN WAT DID IT START WITH? (THE LAST ONE ONLY IF IT DOESN'T CONTAIN SPOILERS)ANYWAY, SO FAR INTERESTING WEBTOON. WILL KEEP MY EYE ON IT."

OSCAR CAME ABOUT AS JUST A DOODLE I DID ONE DAY AT LUNCH. HE WAS ORIGNALLY JUST A SIDE CHARACTER IN ANOTHERSERIES STARRING A MUCH DIFFERENT CHARACTER. THIS GUY ACTUALLY:

I REALLY LIKE THIS GUY TOO BUT I KEPT ON GOING BACK TO THE SKELETON SIDEKICK FOR SOME REASON. ONCE I SETTLED ON THE CHARACTER, I WANTED TO TELL A STORY THAT HAD ELEMENTS OF ALOT OF THINGS THAT I LOVED, SPECIFICALLY MIKE MIGNOLA AND HAYAO MIYAZAKI. AS I BUILT OSCAR'S WORLD, I WANTED TO KNOW IF IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR ME TO TELL A STORY WHERE THE MAIN CHARACTER IS A BIT OF A PACIFIST. THERE'S SO MUCH GREAT ACTION IN TODAY'S VIDEO GAMES, MOVIES AND COMICS BUT I WANTED A CHARACTER

WHO JUST DIDN'T WANT TO FIGHT AT ALL. SEEING AS HE IS (PROBABLY) AS DEAD AS THE SPIRITS HE ENCOUNTERS, I REALLY FELT LIKE HE WOULD BE MUCH MORE SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR PLIGHT AND LESS LIKELY TO JUST PUNCH THEM INTO LEAVING THIS WORLD. WHEW! LONG ANSWER!

WHAT DID YOU STUDY IN SCHOOL? ARE YOU STILL A STUDENT? I MEAN, THAT WOULD BE REALLY IMPRESSIVE ANYWAY, BUT YOU SEEM QUITE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT ART & DESIGN AND HISTORY! ^-^"

THANKS! MY DAYS AS A STUDENT ARE LONG BEHIND ME, HAHA. AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL STINT IN COMPUTER SCIENCE, I ENDED UP STUDYING ANIMATION IN SCHOOL. BUT YOU NEVER STOP LEARNING! ONE OF THE BEST PARTS OF MAKING OSCAR ZAHN IS IT GIVES ME AN EXCUSE TO READ UP ON SUBJECTS THAT INTEREST ME.

SPEAKING OF SCHOOL, I'LL BE TEACHING A COURSE ON CHARACTER DESIGN AT MAX THE MUTT IF YOU HAPPEN TO LIVE IN TORONTO.

THE REAL PLOT IS HOW HE BECAME CURSED AND NOW WANTS TO HELP SAVE THE WORLD ! RIGHT MR. AUTHOR?"

HRMMM... MAYBE? BUT WHO SAYS HE'S CURSED HAHA

SERIOUSLY THOUGH, WE WILL DEFINATELY DISCOVER OSCAR'S BACK STORY AND THERE WILL DEFINATELY BE ADVENTURES BUT I SUSPECT THE REAL STORY OF OSCAR ZAHN MAY BE ALOT GENTLER AND SADDER THAN YOU THINK.

"WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT DOING THIS COMIC OR COMICS IN GENERAL?"

WELL MY FAVORITE THING ABOUT WORKING ON OSCAR ZAHN IS JUST GETTING THE OPPORTUNITY TO TELL MY STORY AND SHARING IT WITH YOU FOLKS. HAVING IT BEING SO WELL RECEIVED IS JUST ABOUT THE MOST GRATIFYING EXPERIENCE IN MY CAREER.

MY FAVORITE THING ABOUT COMICS IS THAT YOU CAN DO ANYTHING IN THEM! YOU CAN TELL ANY TYPE OF STORY WITH JUST A PENCIL AND PAPER (OR A STYLUS AND TABLET THESE DAYS).

" I HAVE A QUESTION! WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO CREATE THESE AMAZING COMICS?"

THIS IS A TOUGH ONE TO ANSWER. SOMETIMES, A STORY IS INSPIRED BY AN IMAGE THAT I WANT TO DRAW AND SOMETIMES ITS AN IDEA THAT I WANT TO EXPRESS OR A SUBJECT MATTER THAT I WANT TO EXPLORE. THE SHORT ANSWER IS THAT LIFE INSPIRES ME!

"WHAT ARE THE CHANCES YOU'RE DRAWING FROM THE TAROT INTERPRETATION OF THE FOOL?"

HRMMM.. NO COMMENT.. :)

"DOES ANYBODY KNOW HOW THIS ALL BEGAN? CAUSE I REALLY DONT REMEMBER"

I DON'T REMEMBER EITHER!

"HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THE IDEA OF THIS WEBTOON AND THE CHARACTER, OSCAR ZAHN? DO YOU ALREADY HAVE AN IDEA OF THE NEXT CHAPTER WHEN YOU'RE WORKING ON THE PRESENT ONE? AND WILL OSCAR EVER PRETEND TO BE A GIRL BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE A FUNNY STORY? XD ANYWAY, I AM REALLY ENJOYING YOUR COMIC SO FAR AND THE BEAUTIFUL ART! CONGRATS ON MAKING IT TO COMIC CON!"

THANKS! IT WOULD BE HILARIOUS IF OSCAR EVER SHOWED UP AS A GIRL! I MAY NEED TO WORK THAT INTO A FUTURE STORY...

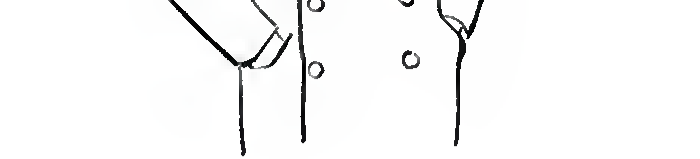
AS FOR THE STORY I HAVE A STRONG DIRECTION TO

TAKE THE STORY. I ALREADY HAVE THE ENDING IN MIND AS WELL AS THE JOURNEY THAT THE CHARACTERS WILL TAKE. HOWEVER, I LIKE TO LEAVE THE DETAILS A LITTLE LOOSE BECAUSE SOMETIMES THE CHARACTERS WILL WANT TO GO IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION THAN I INITIALLY INTENDED AND I WANT TO GIVE THEM THE FREEDOM TO GO THERE :)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DRAWING (AND WHAT WERE THE FIRST SKETCHES OF THIS WEBTOONS) ?

I'VE BEEN DRAWING ALL MY LIFE ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T REALLY TAKE ART SERIOUSLY UNTIL QUITE A BIT LATER. I WAS IN MY MID-TWENTIES BY THE TIME I FINALLY DECIDED TO GO TO ART SCHOOL.

HERE'S THE FIRST DRAWING OF OSCAR THAT I CAN FIND:



HE USED TO HAVE A JAW!

DEAR AUTHOR, NICE COMIC! HOW LONG DOES IT TAKES YOU TO DRAW ONE EPISODE? AND I REALLY WONDER HOW LONG FORWARD AN AUTHOR PLANS HIS STORY, LIKE DO YOU KNOW MOST OF THE STORY EVEN BEFORE YOU START DRAWING (OR EVEN THE END)?? OR IS IT LIKE A JOURNEY FOR YOURSELF EVERYTIME YOU START A NEW EPISODE? KEEP ON DOING SUCH AMAZING WORK AND THANK YOU :

THANKS! I DEFINATELY KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT EPISODE AND PROBABLY A FEW EPISODES DOWN THE LINE BUT IT IS ALSO A JOURNEY. I KNOW HOW THE ENTIRE STORY ENDS BUT I LET THE CHARACTERS TAKE DETOURS THEY WANT TO TAKE ALONG THE WAY :)

IN TERMS OF HOW LONG IT TAKES, IT TAKES ME A FULL WEEK TO DO EACH EPISODE AND I BARELY GET THEM DONE IN TIME HAHA. I'M HOPING TO GET FASTER OR PERHAPS EVEN GET SOME HELP IN THE FUTURE.

"WHAT ACCENT DOES OSCAR HAVE?"

BRITISH!

"SO MY QUESTION IS... DOES OSCAR HAVE ANY OTHER SIDEKICKS THAT HE WORKS WITH OR WILL WORK WITH IN THE FUTURE?? ALSO WHAT'S THE STORY OF AGNES? HOW DID OSCAR AND AGNES MEET? ANYWAYS...LOVE THE STORY,LOVE THE ART, LOVE THIS COMIC, PLEASE NEVER STOP MAKING THESE... LIKE LITERALLY NEVER..."

I DON'T KNOW IF I WOULD LABEL THEM SIDEKICKS BUT THERE'S DEFINATELY A LARGER CAST OF CHARACTERS IN OSCAR'S LIFE. WE WILL DEFINATELY GET A CHANCE TO SEE HOW OSCAR AND AGNES MET. THAT'S ACTUALLY A BIG PLOT POINT TO THE ENTIRE SERIES. GONNA DO MY BEST TO KEEP THIS SERIES GOING AS LONG AS THERE ARE STORIES TO TELL!

"WHEN DID YOU FIRST DRAW OSCAR? O-O"

I FIRST DREW OSCAR ON A LUNCH BREAK AT WORK ABOUT...WOW.. 2 YEARS AGO NOW...

"WHAT IS YOUR MAIN INSPIRATION FOR THE STORY

BEHIND THIS COMIC? AND WHAT IS THE MAIN THING DRIVING YOU TO CREATE IT, GIVEN HOW MUCH EFFORT IT TAKES?"

THE MAIN THING DRIVING ME IS THE REALIZATION THAT IT WAS A STRANGE AND FORTUNATE SET OF OCCURENCES THAT NOW ALLOW ME TO SPEND SO MUCH OF MY TIME TELLING STORIES. I DON'T WANT TO WASTE THAT OPPORTUNITY SO I KEEP TELLING STORIES SO YOU GUYS CAN READ IT SO I CAN GET A CHANCE TO KEEP ON TELLING STORIES :)

"WAIT... SO IS HE ALREADY DEAD THERE? IS HE STEALING FACES/DISGUISES? WHAT DID HE CHOOSE? SO MANY QUESTIONS"

WHY DOES EVERYBODY THINK OSCAR'S DEAD? IS IT BECAUSE HE'S JUST A FLOATING SKULL?

HE'S NOT REALLY "STEALING" FACES. I WOULDN'T CALL IT A DISGUISE EITHER.

I CAN'T COMMENT ON THE LAST QUESTION YET HAHA.

HOW COME OSCAR IS A CAPTAIN? HOW DID HE BECOME A CAPTAIN? HOW CAN YOU DRAW SUCH AN AMAZING MUSTACHE!?

OSCAR'S NOT REALLY A CAPTAIN BUT HE WOULD LIKE TO BE.

THE KEY TO DRAWING A GOOD MUSTACHE IS BEING ABLE TO ACTUALLY GROW THE MUSTACHE YOU WANT TO DRAW

"I HAVE A QUESTION, WHY IS HE DOING AN UNFINISHED BUSINESS BUSINESS?"

SOMEBODY'S GOT TO LEND A VOICE TO THOSE THAT CAN NO LONGER SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES..
IF OSCAR WON'T DO, IT WHO WILL?

"MY QUESTION IS THIS. SINCE IT SEEMS LIKE OSCAR HAS SOME KIND OF CTHULU POWER, DOES HE HAVE ANY OTHER POWERS AS WELL? IS THAT SOMETHING WE'LL FIND OUT LATER? IF THE FIRST ONE DOESN'T WORK FOR REASONS, THEN I ASK THIS, HOW OLD IS OSCAR? ALSO, WELL DONE. SERIOUSLY. THE ART IS NICE AND THE STORY IS REALLY COOL. THANKS FOR WHAT YOU DO. IF IT ISN'T APPARENT, WE ALL LOVE THIS COMIC."

THANKS! I'M GLAD EVERYBODY'S ENJOYING THE COMIC.

I'M NOT SURE IF OSCAR WOULD CONSIDER HIS UMMMM.. CONDITION.. A POWER BUT I SUPPOSE IT COULD COME IN HANDY TIME TO TIME. WE HAVEN'T SEEN WHAT HE'S ACTUALLY CAPABLE OF DOING YET BUT WE WILL DEFINATELY SEE HOW HE ACQUIRED HIS UM... COMPANION?

OH NO! I'VE SAID TOO MUCH!

IF ANYTHING, OSCAR'S "POWER" IS PROBABLY JUST

HIS COMPASSION.

AS FOR HOW OLD HE IS. WELL HE ACTS LIKE A MAN IN HIS EARLYTHIRTIES BUT HE'S PROBABLY ALOT OLDER THAN THAT... OR ALOT YOUNGER...

"*NERVOUSLY BITES FINGERNAILS*AUTHOR: "YOU THERE! IN THE BACK!"ME: "OH, UH, MY QUESTION IS, UH, IF YOU COULD TRAVEL ANYWAY IN THE WORLD, WHERE WOULD YOU TRAVEL TO?"

OOOOH. GOOD QUESTION... HRMM.. WELL IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A DREAM OF MINE TO TRY RIDING THE TOUR DIVIDE WHICH IS A MOUNTAIN BIKE ROUTE THAT STARTS IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS IN CANADA AND ENDS IN MEXICO. MAYBE IF I CAN GET FAR AHEAD ENOUGH IN THE COMIC!

"DEAR TRI_VUONG A QUESTION I'D LIKE TO ASK IS WILL YOU HAVE LIKE A HALLOWEEN SPECIAL AND COULD WE MAKE FAN ART?"

I DO HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL IN MIND FOR HALLOWEEN! AND YES, PLEASE MAKE FAN ART, I'D LOVE TO SEE IT!

"HOW DO YOU MAKE YOUR STORIES?"

THAT'S A SIMPLE QUESTION WITH A COMPLICATED ANSWER. IT USUALLY STARTS WITH AN IDEA THAT INSPIRES ME, FOLLOWED BY A REALLY MESSY, CHAOTIC, AND TERRIFYING PROCESS THAT'S A MIXTURE OF DRAWING, WRITING AND LOTS OF CONVERSATIONS WITH FRIENDS. SOMEHOW THROUGH THAT MESS, A HOPEFULLY COHERENT COMIC IS BORN.

*"*RAISES HAND HESITANTLY* SO DOES HE JUST TRAVEL IN TIME TO LIKE, FIX TIME WRINKLES OR SOMETHING? I FEEL LIKE I'M MISSING A REALLY BIG POINT IN ALL OF THIS"*

I LOVE ALL THE TIME TRAVEL THEORIES BUT OSCAR'S NOT REALLY A TIME TRAVELLER LIKE YOU MIGHT BE IMAGINING. HE DOES OFTEN EXPERIENCE OTHER TIME PERIOD'S THOUGH...

"IT'S SO CONFUSING; BUT I LOVE IT! IS THERE A SERIES BEFORE THIS? WITH A BACK STORY? AND IF SO WHERE COULD WE FIND IT SO THAT WE CAN MAKE SOME MORE SENSE ABOUT THE SERIES???"

NOPE! YOU'RE READING THEM AS FAST AS I CAN MAKE THEM! BUT DON'T WORRY, EVERYTHING WILL BECOME CLEAR (EVENTUALLY).

OK WHEW! I THINK THAT COVERS MOST OF THE QUESTIONS. WOW, IT TOOK ME THE ENTIRE DAY TO ANSWER THEM BUT I HAD A BLAST DOING SO. OK BACK TO WORK! COME BACK NEXT WEEK WHERE WE PICK UP THE STORY WHERE WE LEFT OFF.

THANKS FOR WRITING EVERYBODY.

- TRI